CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for communicating between a mobile input/output bin and a data center, comprising the steps of:

detecting an out-of-service condition at a first self-propelled, mobile input/output bin;

interacting between said first bin and a data center; and

alleviating said out-of-service condition through the use of a second self-propelled, mobile input/output bin.

2. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said detecting step is further comprised of the step of:

scanning/monitoring said first bin to detect said out-of-service condition.

3. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said method is further comprised of the step of:

outfitting said second bin so that said second bin alleviates said out-of-service condition.

4. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said method is further comprised of the step of:

notifying a data center that said first bin is out-of-service.

5. The method, as in Claim 1, wherein said method is further comprised of the step of:

notifying a data center that at least one more bin is needed to alleviate said out-of-service condition.

6. A method for passively alleviating an out-of-service condition, comprising the steps of:

detecting an out-of-service condition at a first self-propelled, mobile input/output bin;

interacting between said first bin and a data center; and

sending a second self-propelled, mobile input/output bin said first bin in order to alleviate said out-of-service condition.

7. The method, as in Claim 6, wherein said method is further comprised of the step of:

outfitting said second bin so that said second bin alleviates said out-of-service condition.

8. The method, as in Claim 6, wherein said method is further comprised of the step of:

notifying a data center that said first bin is out-of-service.

9. The method, as in Claim 6, wherein said method is further comprised of the step of:

notifying a data center that at least one more bin is needed to alleviate said out-of-service condition.

10. A method for actively alleviating an out-of-service condition, comprising the steps of:

scanning/monitoring a first self-propelled, mobile input/output bin by a second self-propelled, mobile input/output bin;

detecting an out-of-service condition at said first bin by said second bin; and

alleviating said out-of-service condition through the use of said second bin.

11. The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said method is further comprised of the step of:

outfitting said second bin so that said second bin alleviates said out-of-service condition.

12. The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said method is further comprised of the step of:

notifying a data center that said first bin is out-of-service.

13. The method, as in Claim 10, wherein said method is further comprised of the step of:

notifying a data center that at least one more bin is needed to alleviate said out-of-service condition.